

## BIT THE DUST.

**Craig Tolliver, His Two Brothers and Another Member of the Notorious Band of Kentucky Desperadoes Killed in a Battle with a Sheriff's Posse in Rowan County—History of the Feud Which Led to the Affray.**

LOUISVILLE, Ky., June 23.—Craig Tolliver, Jay Tolliver, Bud Tolliver and J. R. Cooper, of the famous outlaw band that has ruled Rowan County by terror for three months past, was shot down yesterday in the streets of Morehead, the county seat. John Rogers and several others of the gang were wounded, but all but one escaped.

Late dispatches say that Sheriff Hogg, under authority of Governor Knott secretly obtained several days ago, gathered a posse of 160 men from Rowan and surrounding counties to arrest Tolliver and his men for the murder of the Logans. On the approach of the posse Tolliver and ten others took refuge in the Cottage Hotel, which was strongly barricaded. Passengers who have arrived here by train from Morehead say that the posse stopped the trains near there, and then, surrounding the village, commanded the women, children and citizens to come out. Entering the town with 100 men the sheriff surrounded the Cottage Hotel and ordered Tolliver to surrender. Tolliver's reply was that neither he nor his men would be arrested, and that 100 men could not take them. His party then opened fire upon the sheriff's posse. Quite a brisk racket of musketry ensued, and the fighting was kept up probably for two hours. The only casualty for a time was a flesh wound received by one of the sheriff's posse. The attacking party, however, were gradually drawing their lines closer around Tolliver's fortifications, and the besieged party, finding things growing too warm, finally concluded to make a bold rush for liberty—cut their way through the sheriff's lines and take to the adjacent bush, which, once reached, would afford them a secure escape, but as they made the rush they were met by a tremendous volley, which killed Craig Tolliver, Bud Tolliver, Jay Tolliver and Cooper. They were all shot through the heart and died instantly. Craig Tolliver seems to have been a general target, as he was so thoroughly riddled as to be scarcely recognizable. The other men of the gang got through safely, but as they approached the brush they were met by a volley from the outside cordon—a line of men stationed ten or twelve feet apart around the town. This volley wounded Cate Tolliver, a twelve-year-old boy, son of Craig Tolliver, and three others, all of whom were captured except Cate Tolliver, who crawled into the brush and escaped. The other three also escaped, but one was captured afterward. This brought the battle to an end.

[The feud out of which yesterday's tragedy grows began at the August election in 1884, when Cook Humphrey, Republican candidate for sheriff, defeated Sam Gooden, a Democrat, by a majority of 12. A saloon fight occurred in which John Martin was badly hurt. He claimed that Lloyd Tolliver and John Day beat him with clubs. Shooting followed, in which Solomon Bradley, a bystander, was killed, Tolliver said, by Martin. As a result of this fight John Martin, Ben, his father, Will and Dave, his brothers, and Cook Humphrey, who had lived with the Martins when a boy and gone to school at Morehead from their farm, were ranged on one side in a feud, and Marion, Craig and Floyd Tolliver, brothers, and Bud, Jay and Wiley Tolliver, cousins, living in Elliott County, on the other side. In December John Martin met Floyd Tolliver in a saloon at Morehead and killed him. To escape lynching Martin was taken to Winchester jail. Six days later a forged order was presented to the jailer and Martin, in irons, put on the train to return to Morehead for trial. At Farmer's, an intervening station, a masked mob boarded the train and riddled Martin with bullets. Martin's wife was on the train, not knowing him to be there, and heard of his murder only when the train reached Morehead, where he was dying when she saw him. An effort was made by Sheriff Humphrey to ferret out the murderers, and Stewart Bumgardner, his deputy, was one night shot to pieces from the bushes.

The feud grew to involve 100 on each side. Early in 1885 Z. T. Young, county attorney, was shot from the bushes and badly wounded. He claimed to belong to neither faction, but was hated by the Martins, and it was believed was shot by them. A few months later Ed Pearce, convicted for highway robbery, made a confession that Cook Humphrey had hired himself and Ben Rayburn at two dollars a day to watch Young and promised them \$250 each for his assassination, and paid each \$7.50 for shooting him. He afterward retracted, saying his confession was extorted by Young's son, to whom he made it. On this Craig Tolliver, who had been elected town marshal, and twenty friends surrounded Ben Martin's house while all the Martins, except the mother and daughter, were in Kansas. They knew Humphrey and Rayburn were there and demanded their surrender. Upon refusal they besieged the house all day, and toward evening, after one of the women had escaped to Morehead, where she was thrown into jail by Tolliver's friends, they forced Humphrey and Rayburn to fly, killed Rayburn as he ran, and burned the house, leaving the women in the woods. In the fight Cook Humphrey poured a shot-gun load into Craig Tolliver's face, frightfully but not fatally wounding him. The State troops were summoned. Cook Humphrey was tried for the shooting and the others were indicted for carrying concealed weapons. Attorney-General Hardin prosecuted and County-Attorney Young defended, but a peace compromise was patched up and nobody was punished.

In January, 1886, the fight was again renewed. The State troops were called out and camped at Morehead several weeks. Finally another peace was arranged by Circuit Judge Jackson and Commonwealth Attorney, now Congressman, Caruth, both of Louisville. Craig Tolliver and Humphrey were to leave Rowan County permanently. Three months ago Tolliver returned, had himself elected a police judge, and has since ruled. He drove out the proprietor of the Central Hotel and has since kept the hotel himself. He has had from 50 to 100 of his men in town every night to keep guard. A few weeks ago he went with a posse professedly to arrest John and William Logan of the other faction and shot them to death. This brought the raid of yesterday. He has a brother and many followers living, and further bloodshed is feared.]